

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /086 W

-----072338 220914Z /12

P R 141241Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6523

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 1355

KINSHASA FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RW, UG

SUBJECT: TENSIONS IN UGANDA

1. REALIZE FOLLOWING IS RATHER VAGUE, BUT BELIEVE IT
SHOULD BE PASSED ON ANYHOW.

2. WE HAVE HEARD REPEATED RUMORS IM PAST TWO WEEKS OF
RWANDAN TROOP MOVEMENTS EVIDENTLY INTENDED TO REINFORCE
BORDER WITH UGANDA. VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS ARE GIVEN:
ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS SMUGGLING; WORRIES OVER IMPENDING
CIVIL HOSTILITIES IN UGANDA; INCURSIONS BY UGANDAN ARMY
INTO RWANDAN TERRITORY; EVEN MUTINY WITHIN RWANDA'S OWN
ARMY. SO FAR, WE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING
SATISFACTORY OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

3. IN CONVERSATION A WEEK AGO WITH DEFMIN CHEF DE CABINET
RUSATIRA, LATTER ASKED CAUTIOUSLY WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFO
ABOUT CURRENT POLITICAL STATUS IN UGANDA. WE REVIEWED
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AMIN'S LATEST POLITICAL TROUBLES WITH EX-FINMIN AND SENIOR
MOSLEM ARMY OFFICERS, BUT NEITHER OF US HAD ANYTHING NEW
TO OFFER THE OTHER. RUSATIRA PROFESSED TO BE CONCERNED
FOR GENERAL REASONS ONLY AND AVOIDED GOING INTO DETAILS
WHICH MIGHT HAVE EXPLAINED RUMORS CITED ABOVE.

4. AT CASUAL MEETING OVER WEEKEND, FONMIN RSEKALIJE ALYO

ASKED WHETHER WE HAD NEWS OF AMIN. SAID INTER ALIA HE HAD HEARD VOA BROADCAST REPORTING CUBAN BUILD-UP IN UGANDA (AS WELL AS AMIN'S DENIAL THAT ANY SUCH BUILD-UP WAS GOING ON) AND WONDERED WHETHER WE HAD DETAILS. NSEKALJE FURTHER VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED CUBAN PRESENCE WAS IN FACT GROWING RAPIDLY IN UGANDA, ADDING THAT GOR WAS WORRIED BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR (RWANDAN) TUTSI EXILE GROUPS ON UGANDA SIDE OF BORDER.

5. FINALLY, WELL-PLACED EUROPEAN BUSINESSMAN (COFFEE DEALER WITH GOOD CONNECTIONS IN UGANDA, BOTH LEGAL AND EXTRA-LEGAL) ECHOED SIMILAR UNFOCUSED REPORTS OF CUBAN ACTIVITY IN THAT COUNTRY AND STRESSED THAT THIS ACTIVITY HAD RWANDANS VERY WORRIED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF ANY UGANDAN DEVELOPMENTS (AS BEST WE KNOW THEM) WHICH MIGHT HAVE DIRECT IMPACT HERE. WE'LL CONTINUE PROBING FROM OUR SIDE.
CRIGLER

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